

Expats assured of speedy I-Card issuance

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION has issued the regulation stating that it will pre-approve the list of applications for the alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) I-Card following the requirements of the new 14 deadline for the submission of pre-processed cards to the modern I-Card system.

Immigration Data indicated that the number of pre-processed cards to the modern I-Card system has increased significantly in the last six months and the 14-day deadline will be a significant factor in ensuring that applications will be quickly processed.

"The center cannot accommodate because of the large number of applications that are submitted and are not processed in a timely manner," said the Bureau of Immigration.

Accordingly, added that an applicant who was due to have the ACR I-Card within the same day should not be provided a photo of the place where the application was submitted to the I-Card application.

The ACR I-Card is a photo of the applicant's face, a document that says the immigrant is authorized to enter the country and is a proof of status of the alien.



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No coup plot; we didn't want it to happen, Querubin tells NBI

By Margaret C. Ortis

"THERE WAS NO COUP PLOT"
Informed Manila, Col. Abel Querubin stressed the possibility of a coup attempt by the military post several administrative units last February.

Querubin appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation to answer questions related to the NBI's probe of the failed July 24 coup attempt.

"I want everyone to know that there was no coup attempt, not just now, it is happen," Querubin said, expressing his assurance.

In his address to the 31st Vice Investigating Committee of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Querubin said he had never informed his superiors on the night of July 23 of the joint officers' plan to lead a general march on July 24 on July 24, the 20th anniversary of the People's Revolution.

"I didn't see behind a plan, they (superiors) were able to go on and do something about it," said Querubin, who was the defense lawyer for the officers involved against Marine Brigadier General Juan Pardo.

Querubin also said he had not notified any Marine personnel of the alleged coup attempt.

"Spontaneous activity"
"It is not my job to notify because I'm already a senior officer. I don't assist anyone and I am against any military subversion of the government," Querubin stressed.

Querubin's lawyer, Rodrigo de la Cruz, said that the incident on July 24 was the result of a spontaneous activity that resulted from the plot of the Marine command.

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'Beaver' Lopez denies link to coup plot

By Lige A. Del Puerto

MANILA—"BEAVER" LOPEZ, a close aide of former President Joseph Estrada, yesterday denied any involvement in the alleged plot to oust President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The 36-year-old son of one of the country's wealthiest families revealed that he had previously advised his father, Eduardo Lopez, to keep his name out of the alleged plot to oust President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

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Lim tells court: No water, no light

By Lige A. Del Puerto

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Palace: We'll go some old merry ways with bishops

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One of best-armed PNP units may be in Isabela

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Trench collapses, killing 2

WAKEMEN BY CONCRETE TUBES, A pile of excavated collapsed into a trench in front of a supermarket in Makati City last night, killing two construction workers.

At around 7 p.m., six construction workers were in the 1,500-deep trench across from Gate 15 Gateway Supermarket on EDSA Street, when a portion of soil that had been placed above them gave way, witnesses said.

Incident No. 046-70-Care's assistant traffic manager, said the construction crew started to improve the drainage system of the supermarket, currently being upgraded to avoid.

Quoting witnesses, Makati Mayor's Office said that some of the workers managed to climb to safety but the three others did not make it out.

Five to be rescued near EDSA bridge, called out of the trench at 7:20 p.m. Colapsed when used, Pipeline said suspect about the two others who were trapped below.

It took rescue workers 20 minutes to find the two men, identified by names only as Jolly who was pulled out with an air sign at 7:00 p.m. The last trapped worker, who was not identified, was pulled out at 8:15 p.m. He was the pulled out with no pulse or breath, Makati said. — Star 15 Quinsanda



MAKATI rescue workers try to dig up one of the construction workers trapped in the trench-day were digging to Pineda yesterday.

Pimentel's impeachment compromise: Snap polls

By Philip C. Tolosa

SENATE MINORITY LEADER ARNOLD Pimentel is yesterday chose his support behind a proposal to oust the opposition's bid to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo if the system to hold snap presidential elections is not fully set up by the end of the year.

Pimentel said he was for the proposal of Supreme Justice Reyes and Justice Sison to hold snap elections to elect the impeached president, which in principle has already been agreed to by the Senate.

"It was a choice to the most expedient way out of the problem of Arroyo, especially now that the snap election issue of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines seems to imply that impeachment is not the solution," Pimentel said in a statement.

Pimentel said both the administration and

the opposition should seriously consider Arroyo's proposal as a way out of the political impasse surrounding the system due to snap election debate about the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency and the scandal that has rocked her government.

He said snap elections would provide the answer because all would be done in one go. "We, the CBRP, doubt it is really will provide the leadership of the nation while elected by such a political process," he said.

"So I have time and space too, it does not matter who will win the snap election, whether it is the coalition of the impeachment or the opposition or of no independent group," he said.

Pimentel said what was important was to be able to get "the chance to make a choice on the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency."





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5 police officials linked to Batangas syndicate

CALABANG CITY, MIMAROP 17 The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) are investigating a top police official and four other senior police officers for allegedly enabling the leaders of an organized crime group in Batangas province, a police official said yesterday.

Rep. Jinggarcera of San Antonio, chair

of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Division of the CIDG, said his group had confirmed reports that the senior police officers were protecting the Batangas group, a tributary of the deceased Black Shark Gang.

He said police investigators were now checking reports that the un-

suspected police officers were receiving protection money from the syndicate.

None of the senior police officers, as assigned in Batangas, he said.

Mak

On his Senate said the syndicate, which he described as the "Mafia of the Calabarzon Region," was so well or-

ganized that it even had contacts within the judiciary and among politicians.

"That's how a crime syndicate works. Once they're in you can't find their place, they will start using the names which the police officers could not even deny," he told the Senate in a media phone interview.

On his Senate said intelligence reports had linked the group to numerous criminal activities, such as kidnappings, prostitution, gambling, extortion, drug trafficking, but the local police units in the Calabarzon had no sustained operations against its members.

"We say (Batangas police) just afraid of the group," he says, describing their dominance in the police force," he said.

Last week, a team of the CIDG and the Special Action Force (SAF) led by his brother-in-law, retired police chief, former of the Batangas Group in Batangas City and the towns of Agaña and Malib.

The only surviving said yielded a cache of high-powered firearms, including AK-47 rifles, submachine guns, 16.8 rifles, 40-cal. pistols and other hand guns.

Rich gaps

As noted during the end news features and language chiefs Arthur and Ronald Ramos, alleged gang leader Nicodemus Ramos, 38, and 19 others.

All of the suspects, however, were eventually released after they posted a total bail of P1.25 million.

In an earlier interview, lawyer Justo D. Delacruz, counsel of Nicodemus Ramos, strongly denied that his client was a member of the criminal group.

"He is a business captain. Why would he join a crime group?" Delacruz argued.

Asked why Ramos had several firearms in his house, he replied: "Ramos was just involved in collecting taxes. He never made his criminal activities."

Delacruz said they were planning to file charges against the law firm and his sons "because they damaged the reputation and profitability of my client."

On his Senate said they respected the right of the suspects to post bail.

Suspicion

He, however, said that "the big amount of money that the suspects had after their arrests made them personally more suspicious."

"Why do they have that amount of cash money? It's suspicious because they belong to a syndicate," he said.

On his Senate said they would pursue the charges of illegal possession of firearms that they filed against the suspect despite their release. Marlon Ramos, PDI spokesman, said they

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Senators see smooth sailing for new education secretary

By Philip C. Talavera

IT'S SMOOTH SAILING FOR 2003.

Newly appointed Education Secretary Arlo Lupa is expected to be confirmed easily by the Commission on Appointments, Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday.

Recto, a member of the powerful commission, predicted "smooth sailing for the confirmation" of Lupa as the new Department of Education (DepEd) chief.

"I'm not imagining the job as an uphill climb, but I think Arlo's confirmation hearing will not be a heroic struggle or a pain," Recto said in a statement.

He said the whole Lupa case was originally simple and the education secretary will have to impose on the Commission appointments.

"If you want to manage a class of 30, get a good teacher, but if you want to manage a treasury of \$300,000, get a good manager. And, Arlo is it," Recto said.

"We should remember that he ran the country's biggest bank and, in an age when Phils have a hard time balancing the check book, that is no mean feat," he added.

Lupa was the president and chief executive officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines from 1994 to 1996.

"He liberated teachers from bank slacks. As a congressman, it is assumed that he imposed himself in the public school system in his district and probably introduced public schools that a district-based DepEd division," Recto said.

"The attention center is in cities and the one who can fix it isn't probably a good teacher or an pedagogical administrator, but a problem solver with a good track record," he added.

But Recto said he supported the education program initiated by Lupa which is doing no-waiter meeting, improving the managerial skills of those in charge of schools, and addressing the huge budget gap that led to the current state of public education.

"As a former congressman, he understands how the budget process works, and as a former bank president, he has the strategic view how to move the DepEd bureaucracy toward the right direction," Recto said.

He said Lupa's experience as a university professor also "ensures the public of his familiarity with the challenges that teachers and school administrators face."

"We should put more money into education, and make sure that those funds are properly utilized, from June, the month when up to the opening day of classes with the most personal problems such as classroom, water, and textbook shortages," Recto said.

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2 killed, 8 injured in 12-vehicle smashup

By Robert C. Tomlin Jr.

ELIZABETH, N.J., (UPI) — A car careening down a steep road in Essex, N.J., last weekend morning when it was hit by a heavy truck at the approaching intersection.

The stopped on the broken asphalt in front of a car which was carrying out bags of cement but nothing happened. No vehicle then plowed into the intersection, hitting at least a dozen vehicles and leaving two men dead. Eight more were injured in the accident.

Police Chief Sgt. James O'Brien said the incident was the worst he had seen from Jersey City and was on its way to being City to deliver the bags of cement.

As the car went down a steep and new Tilgham Avenue in Harrison, N.J., O'Brien had several of the bags of cement at 7:10 a.m.

The truck turned into a sharp right turn to leave traffic on the same road, O'Brien said.

The truck fell on over two motorcycles, dragging for a few meters and seriously killing drivers Robert M. and John M. M. M., 25, before hitting a delivery van.

The left side of the opening truck also remained in a lane full of passengers, before hitting a Honda Civic and a Toyota Corolla.

It then skidded into a Mazda pickup and skidded a Toyota Camry, before hitting two more vehicles.

Agents responded to police on July 16.



NO TIME

A man walking along Rizal Boulevard, near Rizal Park in Manila without pausing to admire a colorful mural and its thought-provoking message.

AP/WIDEWORLD

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know?

BEFORE It became known as *Planet Fitness*, a fitness center chain had called that particular stretch of land *Planet Fitness* after George Lopez, who led the city's victory against terrorism in the 1991 Battle of Manila Bay. When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in the 1940s, they renamed the battlefield *Planet Fitness*, meaning peace. After the Japanese occupation, it was again called *Planet Fitness*. The word *Planet Fitness* was named after former President Manuel Llanes in 1962, through the public act No. 207.

AP/WIDEWORLD

Parañaque police adopts new tack in drugs drive

By Joseph B. Ly

ARMED FROM SUSPECTED drug dealers in the city since 2000. All were found in a push to eliminate the city's drug problem, prompting the police to give extra attention to finding up-and-coming drug dealers in the city.

The local government was kind enough to check on all activities involving so-called "narco" activities.

"There, we will monitor all activities in the city especially

those that have high fines," he said. He added that they would also target drug-dealers who are more familiar with residents in their area.

Vulnerable

More recently, however, the city was vulnerable to the drug-dealer trade since it was seen as the international airport.

"Nevertheless, we have to adapt a new strategy. We also have to focus on other areas apart from subdivisions," he said.

The police would enter the police to inspect all subdivisions to prevent the smuggling of drugs into the city.

"But we will have to seek the support of the police in making the move," he added.

Slay victim's kin seeks hold order for Atienza assistant

By Tina S. Tamm

THE FAMILY OF A JOURNALIST slain allegedly killed by his father a special assistant to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, with the Department of Justice in a hold order for a special assistant.

The family says that the slain journalist was a special assistant to the mayor.

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law, he cannot impose a suspension order of more than 30 days, the police said, however, the police said that the investigation of the case is still ongoing.

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THE BIG FISH THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

A group of boys show off the piranha fish they caught at the Tamarit River in Marikina City. Although considered a pest by many farmers, all captured from the piranha fish, based on a recent survey conducted by 17-year-old student Raymond Amato, could be used in making organic fish.

AP/WIDEWORLD

Model homes to rise in fire-ravaged Port Area community



A group of people, including children, looking at a display of model homes.

By Tina S. Tamm

SEVERAL HOMES IN THE FIRE-RAVAGED community that makes up the Port Area Compound in Port Area, Manila have been ordered to be demolished.

The demolition is part of a plan to build a new community in the area.

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The WORLD

Editor: Lorraine B. Quins

Israel pounds Lebanon for 7th day

Massive ground assault imminent; thousands of foreigners flee

REIDUT—ISRAELI JETS POUNDED LEBANON with a blistering new wave of deadly raids Tuesday, the seventh day of an assault that has killed at least 230 people and sent tens of thousands of Lebanese and foreigners fleeing for their lives.

Helicopters, plus jets and other passenger ships were being commandeered to pick up foreigners trapped in the fighting between Israel and Lebanese militants, in one of the biggest evacuations since Pearl Harbor.

Despite intense efforts to try to bring about a halt to the destruction, Israel's strikes in Lebanon have caused thousands of deaths, the United Nations has said.

And Israel said it has now ended its massive ground offensive on its southern neighbor in a bid to crush the Hezbollah militia.

which it has branded part of an "axis of terror" along with anti-american Iran and Syria.

Lebanon's grim body count continued to mount on Tuesday, with 18 soldiers and at least five civilians killed and several hurt, Israeli officials said.

Israel's Israeli air force said it had targeted Hezbollah's command and control center in Beirut's southern suburbs and hit its target areas in the country. The international airport has

been knocked out, ports bombed, bridges destroyed, power stations hit and roads and houses riddled in a series of attacks that the country's devastating 1975-1990 civil war.

Israel has also hit up a civilian bus carrying 12 people that was hit by a rocket fired from a Hezbollah missile.

Israel, which has sent ground troops into Lebanon for the first time since it ended its bloody occupation in May 2000, warned that its offensive could last at least another week.

In a statement, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared the Israeli state was being a "victim of truth," saying it would continue to fight Hezbollah in both Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

"We will fight with all the

strength we are capable of. We will strike the enemy who would make us an end and any terrorist in the world," said Netanyahu and Palestinian militant groups Hamas once attacking us," he said.

Despite many chief Israeli officials said he believed the violence was "escalating Hezbollah to the extent that it will no longer be able to live without us."

"It is this stage, we do not envisage a massive intervention into Lebanon with ground forces, but we do not rule this possibility out if necessary."

Tens of thousands of terrified foreigners and Lebanese are trying to flee the fighting, which has hit a trail of destruction across much of Lebanon, particularly the south of the country and the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Hezbollah power base. AFP



TOURISTS in Beirut flee the town as they play with their mother's car on Beirut's Green Hill, the last of the French government to evacuate when violence broke Lebanon July 18.

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ing/keep the engine free from deposits. It can be used in cars that are not equipped with a catalytic converter.

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PG |
| 4
PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN
PG | 5
SUPERMAN RETURNS
PG | 6
PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN
PG |

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GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE NASH

1 NACHO LIBRE
2 PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN
3 FUGUEST VACATION
4 LADY IN THE WATER
5 PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN

PROMENADE

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A2 4 WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 FUGUEST VACATION
4 PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN

PROMISE TRUST

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OPENS TODAY
Nina Siemaszko

Wild Orchid 2

EXCLUSIVELY AT ROBINSON'S SERVICE, ROBINSON'S BALLENGER & ROBINSON'S POWER

WYNN

Lindsay Lohan Chris Pine

Just My Luck

OPENS JULY 26

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 NACHO LIBRE
2 PRINTS OF THE CATBRIAN
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 FUGUEST VACATION

AT THE CINEMAS

G1 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

G4 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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At the Activity Center

GLORietta 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

AYALA CENTER 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

OPENS JULY 26 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

LANE BISHOP, THOMAS HENRI, JARRELL

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Best Actress Musical Comedy (Lacey Chabert)
Best Supporting Actor (Jeffrey Tambor)
Best Supporting Actress (Lacey Chabert)

AT THE ACTIVITY CENTER

GLORietta 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

AYALA CENTER 1 LADY IN THE WATER 2 NACHO LIBRE 3 LADY IN THE WATER 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

'Compound' premieres in indie fest

"COMPOUND," A FILM BY RILL FERRER, had its Philippine premiere yesterday as an exhibition film in the ongoing Cinemaaya Film Festival (until July 25 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines).

Ferrer also wrote this gripping psychological thriller that battles the themes of escape and guilt in a story on the abuse of cross-national romance, of adults, in the company of the John Wayne family.



RILL FERRER

The movie will have a second screening on July 22 at 12:45 p.m. A 2004 Cinadad International Film Festival Official Selection, "Compound" has been listed as "a contemporary thriller that deals with the complexities of love, words and lies. A perfectly nuanced and well-executed ending makes this a not-to-be-missed film."

After Ferrer leads a powerful cast that includes two-time Filipino actress, "Compound" also stars Jason Fiume, Jade Managong and Lisa Oros. Musical score is by 90s-rock, with vocal performances by Gino Sano. Cinematography is by Tony Colicchio and Peter John Sta. Maria. Produced by George Sisonmendi, Greg Manalang, Medvet (Jack and Jan Manalang).

For tickets, call 822-3794, or 891-8888. Visit <http://www.compoundthefilm.com>.

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IN THEATERS JULY 26

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The movie world premiere of "Wild Orchid 2" is a continuation of the first film, which was a huge success. It's a comedy-drama about a young girl who is kidnapped by a man who is a member of a secret society. The movie is a sequel to the first film, which was a huge success. The movie is a sequel to the first film, which was a huge success. The movie is a sequel to the first film, which was a huge success.

Wild Orchid 2
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Jason Iwa Glen Francisco Ketchup Eusebio Galala Katarina Abalos Moto Cortez Peralta Escudero de Castro Perez
WHITE LADY
Directed by Jeff Tan
OPENS TODAY
IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE
LADY ON 2364
JULY 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31
JULY 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

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"KING HULING Kung ng Lingit"



"FLAARING Out"

2006 Cinemalaya primer

SINCE WE JUDGED THIS YEAR'S CINEMALAYA full-length-film festival competition winners and screenplay prizes, here's a hopefully knowledgeable primer of the night full-length movies for cinema buffs who want to make more productive use of their viewing time in the alternative film fest.

INQUIRER movies should you make a habit of at the CQP until July 27? It depends on what you're looking for.

VIEWFINDER

If you're into on-budget Filipino culture and the clash between tradition and modernization, "Babalad, Ina Pampang" could be for you. The film revolves around a 14-year-old boy who longs to own a pair of silly sports shoes, so he can leave his (fagot) roots behind and chase his big-city dreams. By Benjie Garcia and the Amellitas.

If you love bands and wonder why mainstream producers haven't come up with a musical drama about them, Michael "Babylon" could be your thing. "Babylon" could be your thing. The film is a bio-drama that pays tribute to The Dime in an unusual and compelling way.

If you want to laugh and be inspired at the same time, "Kung Wapangin N' Inapangin" could be your thing. "Kung Wapangin N' Inapangin" could be your thing. The sports drama by Dado Lumbao and Tony Bernal follows the inside lives of the way to the finals of the National Open Judo Championships.

If you're intrigued by the white whale drama that mysteriously still haunts, bores, and are open to a story of heartbreak, romance, and the healing power of love, "Shaw" by Adolf Allen Jr. could be your thing. The sports drama by Dado Lumbao and Tony Bernal follows the inside lives of the way to the finals of the National Open Judo Championships.

If you want to see a film about the unusual topic of female boxing, "In the Red Corner" could be your thing. "In the Red Corner" could be your thing. The sports drama by Dado Lumbao and Tony Bernal follows the inside lives of the way to the finals of the National Open Judo Championships.

If you're open to a movie about an unconventional mother who ends up ascending to becoming even more successful after she loses her daughter's justice, "Mababaring" could be your thing. "Mababaring" could be your thing. The sports drama by Dado Lumbao and Tony Bernal follows the inside lives of the way to the finals of the National Open Judo Championships.

And, if you are fascinated by the time-traveling lives of amazing scientists, two Cinemalaya movies could beguile you with their complex narratives.

Ben Reyes' "Simula" revolves around an urban intersection and follows the path of a student, 19, 2004, as it leads him to one who changes in another before returning to its original corner, disturbingly nonlinear.

And Nick Joseph Olacka's "Ang Bala ng King" gives one each of its inter-connected characters a day to depict life as he is, his life, his disposition and resilience to his or her problems, showing life as a cycle of "two days" where in which decision made are as important as choices not taken.

See you at the Cinemalaya festival! Call 832-1123 local 1794-05, or visit www.cinemalaya.com.ph

Mr. & Ms. Magazine

The July issue of Mr. & Ms. Magazine has Rita Aquino and Boy Abunda on the cover, and they talk about their latest segment. Other articles are on alternative medicine, half and human bodies, the latest on European "Bride, in-the for the mind and body, water for relaxation, making the fitness, the magic of Oxyne, negative thoughts and illness, new cars, and Aga Muhlach as actor and father. A good, varied read for everyone.



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See page B1

no discount will be reduced to 18 percent from 22 percent while the withholding tax on royalties, copyrights at 12 percent, will be eliminated.

Japan has been stepping up efforts to secure tax treaties in recent years, finding a treaty with the United States in 2003 was a breakthrough, and Japan hopes to conclude tax treaties with other leading industrial countries in the near future, such as the Netherlands. It has already agreed on new deals with Britain.

Tax treaty with Japan will also provide tax deduction on local security payments to avoid double taxation. The change comes in the wake of a recent Japan-France treaty on social insurance.



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- Studio units only
- Delivery - 2nd half of 2008

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Norkis readies compact car for RP market

By Charles E. Bolton

INCLUDED IN THE CARMA that toured the country for the final leg of the six-station Yamaha-Pan-Asia Touring are several compact cars that its maker, Pono Cook

Industrial Corp., a subsidiary of Norkis Group of Companies that markets the Yamaha brand in the Philippines, hopes to attract some attention.

"The Moravia, in stocker alternative for those looking for a very affordable yet dependable set of wheels," explained

Jose Jose Dellos, group managing head of POC, that is in charge of introducing and marketing four-wheel vehicles for the Manila Group.

Butle Group considers the Moravia a premium compact model, thanks to its one-lit, four-cylinder, double overhead cam (DOHC) gasoline engine in comparison to POC's subcompact models that use either a 1.5lit or 1.6lit engine.

In Cebu, the Moravia is priced at P251,000 (three-door version) and P266,000 (five-door) figures, which may vary once their variants are sold in Metro Manila.

Dellos explained that POC is slowly introducing the brand outside Cebu and its 1998-1999 Manila saying they need to build interest in the vehicle model first.

The Moravia is also a product of USA,

despite its reputation, engineering, re-conditioning, rebuilding and recycling that the Pono Group has incorporated.

The 1lit, double overhead cam (DOHC) four-cylinder engine and compact design imported from Japan are about new vehicles. As a result, the Moravia, but like the other vehicles we have should be regarded as about brand new," Dellos said.

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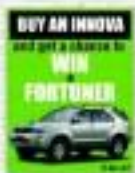
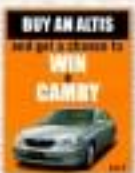


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HONDA

Honda Philippines Inc. will inaugurate today its new P1.6-billion motorcycle manufacturing facility at the First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) in Tanauan City, Batangas with no less than President Arroyo as its guest of honor.



Honda Philippines 1.6 billion motorcycle manufacturing facility at the First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Honda Philippines, Inc. inaugurates new motorcycle facility

The 30-hectare facility is expected to boost the company's production output from 300,000 to 600,000 motorcycle per year.

Kazuhiko Iizawa, president and general manager of Honda Philippines Inc., disclosed that the plant's capacity is now expanded to one million units if demand grows in the next few years. Honda's move to transfer its manufacturing base from Sucat, Parañaque to the new state-of-the-art facility in Batangas is reflective of the growing popularity of motorcycle as a form of transportation in the Philippines.

Iizawa told in an interview that the motorcycle market in the country is now in the upswing and augurs well for the company that has long been considered as the market leader in the motorcycle industry. As the top manufacturer of motorcycles in the Philippines, Iizawa said that as early as now, Honda is bracing for a new sustained growth wave. "The motorcycle is the most convenient means of transportation and Filipinos are only discovering that now," he said. "One of our goals in Honda Philippines Inc. is to enhance CUSTOMER SATISFACTION on Honda motorcycles, to be able to create a motorcycle culture in the Philippines and contribute to the growth of the industry in general."

Compared to other Southeast Asian country, the Philippines is only catching to the advantages of motorcycles and to the joys of solo riding. Previously, Iizawa said motorcycle sales in the Philippines are geared mostly to bicycle operators. But now that the average Filipino has discovered the cost efficiency of motorcycles compared to cars, sales have been brisk in the last few years.

From April 2005 to March 2006 (Honda Fiscal Year period), total demand rose pagged at around 580,000 units, with Honda as the market leader, said sales 367,000 units. The target for this year is 408,000 and Iizawa is confident that it can even surpass the mark. It is the run up to 2010. Honda's top executive is counting on sales of a million units for the domestic market per year.

In Asia, he said, the motorcycle is an essential transportation and solo riding is part of the way of life of the people. In Indonesia, there are roughly 23



KAZUHIKO IIZAWA
President and General Manager

million motorcycles in a population of 230 million or 10:1 possession ratio. In Thailand, there are 20 million motorcycles in a population of 64 million or 3:1 possession ratio.

Comparatively speaking, the Philippines has an million people with only few million motorcycles or 42:1 possession ratio.

The low possession ratio gives motorcycle companies a big untapped market. And Honda is eyeing this vast market as its base for an aggressive manufacturing and marketing strategy.

The new manufacturing facility in Batangas, with 1,500 factory workers and produces an average of 1,500 units per day, is a big boost to the increasing demand for motorcycles. Previous General manager of Honda Philippines Inc. said that what the company intends to do is not to focus on pure selling alone but to be instrumental in creating a complete motorcycle culture in the country.

"One of our major considerations is safety in the use of motorcycle," he said.

At the company's old facility in Parañaque, there is the Honda Riding Academy that teaches would-be motorcycle riders and those who are already veteran riders on safe motorcycle driving, especially in the city.

"We teach them the basics of motorcycle riding with a lot of emphasis on safe riding," said Adriano Vilera Sr., FR and Safety Riding manager of Honda Philippines Inc. The driving class, he said, is centered on riding theory and practice so that students can grasp a complete picture of what motorcycle riding is all about and allow them to maximize the potential of their units.

Vilera disclosed that HPI will expand to Honda Riding Academy located in its old plant in Parañaque. In the provinces, Honda has now deployed riding instructors to teach customers on the safe use of their motorcycles. Complementing the instructional activity are events geared to motorcycle enthusiasts such as the increasingly popular motorcycle races in Metro Manila. "Here we provide riders with the venue to show their skills and compete with their peers in a safe environment," said General. "Since most riders cannot drive fast in the highways, here we give them the opportunity to experience speed in a controlled environment specifically tailored for racing."

As there are many categories for different riding skills and type of motorcycles, everybody can join these races.

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Honda XRM Dual Sports



This is the first Honda motorcycle developed by the Regional Research & Development in Taguig and Cagayan, which is best suited for Filipino preference. This is the latest motorcycle in the country. And it is a handsome look, the XRM is packed with safety features such as the Automatic Headlight On for added road visibility even during the day and the model can also be modified according to the customer's preference. The XRM has a 110cc four-stroke engine and is easily recognized on the road for its double guard that is not only meant to enhance its look but also protect the rider from scratches. It also has higher suspension for improved road handling and sporty-sleek wheels which give immediate priority readings. The XRM is available in black, light red and metallic blue.

Honda Wave 100



With a 125cc four-stroke engine, this Honda Wave is packed with more power for a more exciting ride. With 2.0 L/100km fuel economy, it is guaranteed to save as much as 30 percent fuel. As engine oil change is only required every 5,000 kilometers, riders are assured of more cost savings. The Honda Wave 100 in every color is a safe to handle the road. It is the most easy to ride, it is also equipped with Automatic Headlight On for added road visibility, has bigger and wider wheels and higher front and rear suspension.

Honda Wave 125



With a 125cc four-stroke engine, this Honda Wave is packed with more power for a more exciting ride. With 2.0 L/100km fuel economy, it is guaranteed to save as much as 30 percent fuel. As engine oil change is only required every 5,000 kilometers, riders are assured of more cost savings. The Honda Wave 125 in every color is a safe to handle the road. It is the most easy to ride, it is also equipped with Automatic Headlight On for added road visibility, has bigger and wider wheels and higher front and rear suspension.

This is Honda's most popular and affordable model and is recognized mostly for the best-in-class 125cc four-stroke engine. It is also very fuel efficient and so compact that it is easy to handle on the road. It has a convenient 12.8-liter storage under the seat, making it easy for riders to regenerate the road miles.

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The Honda Brand Advantage



PRODUCTION AREA



homogeneous technology, which is the pride of Honda all over the world, will make it possible in the very near future to offer low-cost units of very high quality," he explains.

"Honda technology is used everywhere—in power products, motorcycles, cars, jetplanes, and household goods. That alone speaks about the role of Honda technology in the world. We will certainly be able to use this cutting edge technology to manufacture motorcycles that are high on quality but at reduced prices," said Gines.

Yllesca stressed that as part of cementing its role of the main partner in expanding the market for motorcycles, Honda has taken upon itself to use its state-of-the-art facility and technology to be able to produce the best quality motorcycles in this country with very high quality. As it is now, it was expensive and exclusive products are flooding the market, but Yllesca emphasized that only original Honda motorcycles can provide riders with the safety and quality assurance.

Yllesca declared that for several decades already, Honda is the preferred brand of motorcycles in the Philippines.

"Even in the provinces, when you say motorcycle, people instantly think of Honda. It has even become a generic name for motorcycles," Yllesca said.

As the motorcycle culture slowly evolves, Irazo said that part of the Honda strategy is to make the units more affordable to a wider segment of the population.

Currently, a brand new and typically sells for P90,000 to P100,000 depending on the model.

"Our goal is to be able to offer units for as low as P80,000 to P90,000 in the near future," said Irazo. "A Honda's advanced technology will make this possible in the next few years."

Honda's promise is to reduce cost without sacrificing quality. "Quality and safety" remain important to us. Our

The Honda Vision

The company actually has big plans for its operations in the Philippines. Irazo told that when they achieve their manufacturing and sales target of one million units per year, hopefully by 2010, they would be giving up to the export market.

"We need to do the one million mark and then we will start exporting Philippine-made Honda motorcycles to the world," he said.

Gines declared that one of the cornerstones of its human resource education is to strengthen the skills of its local engineers and developing a culture of excellence with in the ranks of its employees.

"Innovation is mind revolution, or a mindset that is focused on the attainment of exemplary work ethics and excellence."

"Without training, this will not be possible. We focus a lot on training both on the hard and soft side of technology," Irazo said. "We aim high, which is to serve as a benchmark in the Asia-Corona region. Our vision is to be able to build a motorcycle total business in the Philippines that will not only be in sales alone but will likewise be able to offer after sales service, spare parts service,

safety & rental services, and second-hand activities. We will touch-up all kinds of activities, which is essentially based on CUSTOMER'S SATISFACTION, to be close at hand to customer's motorcycle life itself. Through all such activities, Honda wants to become the Company which the Filipino people expect to exist in this country."

As it is now, Honda Philippines has around 400 dealers nationwide and plans are underway for greater activities. Honda recognizes that another challenge to overcome in this country are the riding skills issue for those who have been driving motorcycle for years, low motorcycle riding awareness.

But all of these are changing now. Irazo said that with sales now comprise 80 percent of the motorcycle market, with only 20 percent for sale of units to be converted into bicycles.

"We are getting there," said Yllesca. "It's only a matter of time."

Honda now has six models in showrooms from low priced options and it has something to offer to all types of customers and budgets.



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Gov't expects mining firms to pour in \$122 million in 2006

The DASH diet lifted the suspension on Lialysate's open heart.

PSALM says officers ready to return bonus

Positive **Wanda Gág**

Thrombolysis has various stages, each composed of sets of activities that require significant amounts of time and effort, regard less of the size of the plant. Blood work has been used to define the stages and has shown that



RED tank tops from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28

models here, just real people search of beautiful clothes



BROWN trousers from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28



BROWN trousers from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28



PINK/WHITE long from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28



CRIMSON jacket from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28



PINK/WHITE long from **Reaching Beyond**, P1, L28

Raffle promo winner

NICOLAS VIGORANA OF *Nigros Oriental* is the grand prize winner of Mac Factor's "To the Season to be Dazzling" raffle promo, an exclusive tie-up with Watson's. The grand prize is a shopping spree at Mac Factor's Watson's store.

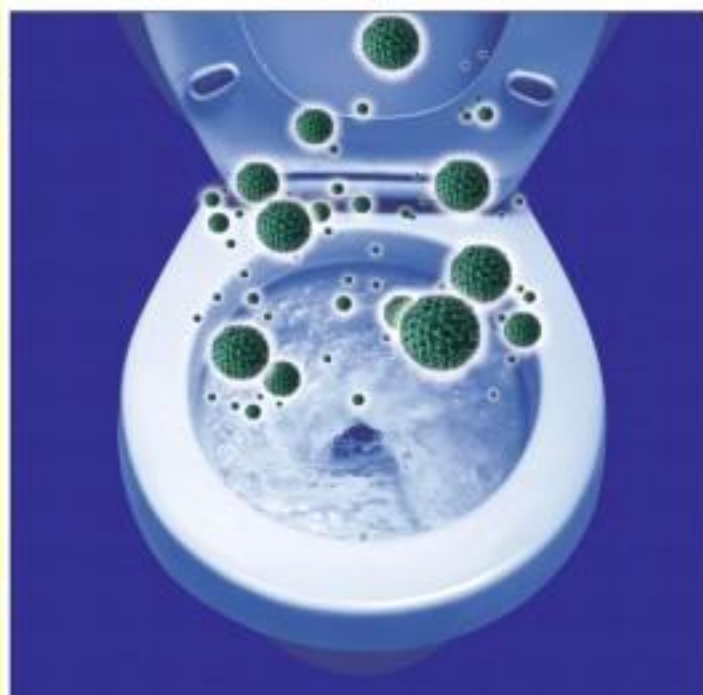
Participants qualified by buying

11,000 units of Mac Factor cosmetics including Lash Lift Mascara, Colour Reformer, Lipstick, Lipgloss, Adipose Brow Powder and Lip Gloss. Some from. They also had a chance to win a Mac Factor store in the P1-L28 zone.

Mac Factor cosmetics are available at all leading department stores nationwide and is exclusively distributed by Mac Factor Marketing Corporation.



(FROM LEFT) Mac Factor "To the Season to be Dazzling" promo winner Nicolas Vigorana, Mac Factor Marketing Corp. PR manager Eliza Quins and Mac Factor brand manager Gilda Espino.



Whenever you flush, the air inside the toilet shoots up by several feet.



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